Appl. No. 09/881,229 Amdt. Dated June 2, 2004 Reply to Office action of March 10, 2004 Attorney Docket No. P14395-US1 EUS/J/P/04-3123

# REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 2-3, 16, 19, 21, and 25-28; claims 1 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 2-23 and 25-28 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-20, 22, 23 and 26-28 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten or amended to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 24 have been canceled and the limitations of these two claims have been incorporated with the allowable limitations of claim 3 and 26 respectively. Amended claims 3 and 26 are now independent. The Applicants submit that claims 2, 21 and 25, which now depend directly from claims 3 and 26 respectively, contain the same novel limitations of independent claims 3 and 26. The Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments have placed the claims in condition for allowance.

### Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,192,037 B1 issued to Spear (hereinafter Spear). Claims 1 and 24 have been canceled and the rejection of these claims is now moot.

# Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Kawano et al. (US 006564052B1). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 2.

Amended claim 2 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 2 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

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Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Naqvi et al. (US 0066254202B1). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 21.

Amended claim 21 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 21 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spear in view of Hess et al. (US 005471670A). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 25.

Amended claim 25 now depends from independent claim 3, which contains allowable limitations. Claim 25 contains the allowable limitations of claim 3 and the Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of this claim.

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# CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for Claims 2-23 and 25-28.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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